

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wesely, before we go on with the committee amendments, under the north balcony we have fifteen LEAD Fellows which is the Leadership Education Action Development Program of Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council and Dr. Allen Blazek is among them. He is the Executive Director. Please let's welcome them. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the Legislature, the committee amendment to this bill falls in line with the basic intent of the bill. It is to deal with the Crippled Children's Services Act that we have had in place for some time. And the bill itself tries to do a couple of things. Number one, it clarifies that those who would be able to be served by Crippled Children's Services could be married and under the age of 21 and still receive services. It was the case in the past before this legislation that an individual had to be single in order to receive the services and there is really no reason for that. It does discourage these young people who would want to be married from doing so because they would lose their benefits and we don't want to discourage that if that is what their intent is. So that is one change. The other change is a change in terminology. Presently in our crippled children's statutes we talk about harelips and that is an outdated and anachronistic term and ought to be changed now to the more modern term of cleft lip and that is part of the bill. In keeping with that, trying to update terminology, the whole term "crippled children" is out of date. It implies things that are negative and we are changing in this committee amendment from the term Services for Crippled Children to Services for Medically Handicapped Children, and we feel this is a more appropriate term than crippled children and we think it would bring us up to date in terms of attitude toward these individuals. So the committee amendment again changes the terminology from "Crippled Children" to "Medically Handicapped Children". I would ask your support for the committee amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Seeing no further lights on the committee amendments, we will now vote on LB 249 committee amendments.